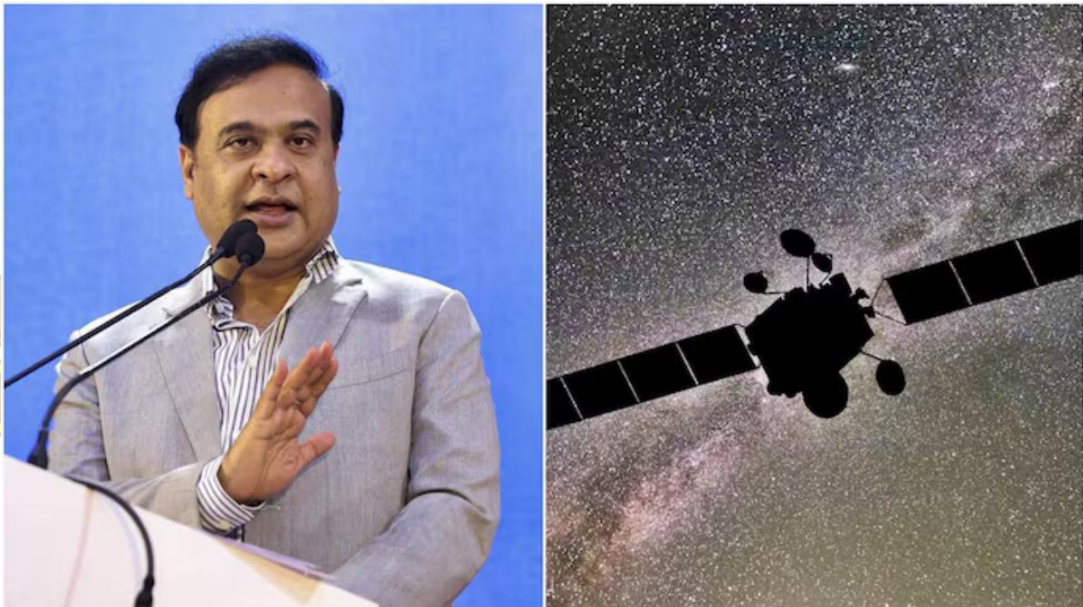


Daily Current Affairs

13 March 2025

Assam To Launch Its Satellite

- Assam state government has announced plans to launch its own satellite, **ASSAMSAT** soon, aiming to strengthen data access for key socio-economic initiatives and enhance border surveillance.



- The **ASSAMSAT** satellite can help providing dedicated services for agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure development, and security border management and police operations. **The satellite will be set up in collaboration with IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center)** which promotes private investment and innovation in the space sector and Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

RBIH Launches DesignShaala

- **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has launched DesignShaala an initiative aimed at promoting **financial innovation through Human-Centered Design (HCD)**. The program was launched by Nandan Nilekani, Chairman and Co-Founder of Infosys, **during the 'Building for Billions' event in Bengaluru.**



- DesignShaala is designed to ensure financial solutions are built around real user needs, behaviors, and **experiences, making finance more intuitive**, inclusive, and impactful. The initiative aims to empower financial innovators to develop solutions that go beyond functionality and deliver truly transformative user experiences.



RBIH
Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

Starlink's Entry Into India

- India is on the brink of a **major transformation in internet connectivity** as SpaceX's Starlink prepares to launch its satellite-based broadband services in the country.



- **With major telecom players** like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel already signing agreements with SpaceX to offer high-speed internet, Starlink's arrival could revolutionize the digital landscape, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- However, before **Starlink can roll out its services**, it must obtain regulatory approvals from the Indian government.



- India has made remarkable progress in expanding internet access, but a major urban-rural gap still exists.
- **Cities enjoy high-speed fiber broadband**, but remote villages and hilly terrains often struggle with poor network coverage and slow internet speeds.
- **Urban Areas: Well-connected with fiber-optic broadband**, 5G services, and multiple ISPs (Internet Service Providers).
- **Rural Areas: Depend on slow mobile networks**, expensive satellite internet, or no reliable connectivity at all. Starlink's satellite-based internet technology bypasses the need for traditional ground infrastructure like fiber-optic cables or cell towers.
- **Instead, it provides direct internet access from space**, ensuring consistent speeds even in remote locations. With over 5,000 satellites already deployed, Starlink could become a game-changer in bringing affordable and reliable internet to India's underserved regions.

Ukraine Agrees For Ceasefire

- **Ukraine has backed a US proposal for a 30-day ceasefire** and agreed to immediate negotiations with **Russia after talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** yesterday. The development comes over three years since the conflict between Kyiv and Moscow began.



- After more than eight hours of negotiations with Ukrainian officials in Jeddah, **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said**, Washington will now take the offer to

Russia. In addition, the United States also agreed to resume military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine.

- In a joint statement, **Ukraine and the US said, they will conclude as soon as possible** a deal securing Washington access to Ukraine's mineral wealth. Ukraine President Zelenskyy was to sign the deal at the White House before the dramatic **showdown on the 28th of last month in which US President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance confronted the Ukrainian President.**



- Meanwhile, the Kremlin has said, Russia is waiting for a briefing from the US on the proposal that calls for a halt to all the fighting on land, sea and in the air.
- In a podcast interview published, **Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said**, Moscow has ample reasons to **distrust Ukraine and its Western backers** given their history of broken promises. He accused Kyiv of consistently undermining its own interests with each act of cheating.

Ramsar Award For 'Wetland Wise Use'

- **Jayshree Vencatesan, co-founder of Care Earth Trust**, recently made history as the first Indian to receive the Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use'. This prestigious global accolade recognises exceptional contributions to sustainable wetland management.
- The announcement coincided with **International Women's Day**, denoting the role of women in environmental conservation. Vencatesan was one of twelve women honoured for their impactful work in wetland preservation.



- **Ramsar Awards celebrate individuals and organisations** dedicated to the sustainable management of wetlands. Established under the Convention on Wetlands, these awards aim to encourage wise use of wetland resources. The award categories include 'wise use of wetlands', 'innovation', and 'influencing policy'. Vencatesan has dedicated decades to the conservation of India's wetlands.
- Her efforts focus particularly on the Pallikaranai Marsh in Chennai. She began her journey with a **modest budget of \$350 and a vision to protect marshlands** often regarded as wastelands. Her work has documented the rich biodiversity of **Pallikaranai Marsh, which is home to over 337 species of flora and fauna.**

**Jayshree Vencatesan Becomes
First Indian To Win Ramsar
Award For 'Wetland Wise Use'**



- Leading an all-women research team, Vencatesan has not only protected wetlands but also inspired the next generation of female conservationists. She emphasises **the importance of equipping women with technical skills** and decision-making roles in wetland management. This approach encourages inclusivity and enhances conservation efforts.



- **Vencatesan faces numerous challenges in her conservation efforts.** She notes that complex legal and bureaucratic issues can hinder restoration projects. For example, outdated land titles and user rights can obstruct progress. These challenges highlight the need for streamlined processes in wetland management.
- The **concept of 'wise use' is central to the Ramsar Convention.** It refers to maintaining the ecological character of wetlands while promoting sustainable development. Contracting Parties to the Convention commit to implementing national policies and public education to achieve wise use. This ensures the conservation of wetland ecosystems and the services they provide.

What Is Geet Gawai

- The recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mauritius brought into light the **enduring cultural ties between India and the island nation.** The Prime Minister was welcomed with a traditional Bhojpuri performance known as Geet Gawai. This event puts stress on the rich heritage that the Indian diaspora has maintained in Mauritius.



- **Geet Gawai is not just a performance** but a vital expression of identity for many Mauritians of Indian descent. Geet Gawai is a **traditional Bhojpuri musical ensemble**. It is performed mainly by women and is integral to various life events, particularly weddings. The performance begins with invocations to deities and involves singing uplifting songs.



- This tradition has been recognised by **UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since December 2016**. The roots of Geet Gawai in Mauritius trace back to the arrival of Indian indentured labourers.
- From **1834 to the early 1900s, around five lakh Indians** were brought to Mauritius. Many were from the Bhojpuri-speaking regions of India. Their cultural practices, including Geet Gawai, have been preserved and celebrated over generations.

Olympics World Winter

- India has made a **positive start to its campaign at the 12th Special Olympics World Winter 2025**, bagging four medals including two gold and as many silver on the first day at Turin in Italy.



- **Samir Yadav and Bharti grabbed a gold medal each in the Snowboarding (Novice Giant Slalom) final at Bardonecchia while Hem Chand and Harshita Thakur took home a silver each in their respective divisions at the same event. A 49-member contingent, comprising 30 athletes and 19 support staff, is representing India at the tournament.**

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **What Is Name Of The Satellite That Assam State Government Plans To Launch**
 - A. ASSAMNET
 - B. ASSAMSAT
 - C. ASSAMSPACE
 - D. ASSAMVIEW

ANSWER: B

2. **Which Of The Following Union Territories Has Achieved 100% Rooftop Solar Installation On Government Buildings**
 - A. Puducherry and Daman & Diu
 - B. Lakshadweep and Chandigarh
 - C. Delhi and Chandigarh
 - D. Chandigarh and Daman & Diu

ANSWER: D

3. DesignShala Initiative Launched By

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry Of Finance
- C. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: C

4. Who Has Been Appointed As Chief Executive Of Indian Banks' Association

- A. Sunil Mehta
- B. Shaktikanta Das
- C. Atul Kumar Goel
- D. Rajnish Kumar

ANSWER: C

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. What Is The Theme Of Digital Payments Awareness Week 2025

- A. Digital India: Cashless Economy
- B. Secure Payments for a Digital Future
- C. Digital Payments – The Future of Finance
- D. India Pays Digitally

ANSWER: C

7. Which Indian Paralympic Gold Medallist Will Lead The Indian Contingent In World Para Athletics Grand Prix

- A. Devendra Jhajharia
- B. Mariyappan Thangavelu
- C. Praveen Kumar
- D. Sumit Antil

ANSWER: C

8. What Is The New Name Of The Commonwealth Games Federation

- A. Commonwealth Athletics
- B. Commonwealth Sports
- C. Global Commonwealth Federation
- D. Commonwealth Games Association

ANSWER: B

9. According to SIPRI Report, Which Country Became The Largest Arms Importer In The World During 2020-24

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Ukraine
- D. Japan

ANSWER: C

10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. Which State Government Launched Scheme Namely Mukhyamantri Balika Samridhi Yojana

- A. Mizoram
- B. Tripura
- C. Assam
- D. Manipur

ANSWER: B

12. A Rare Sighting Of Sarus Crane Has Been Reported In Which State

- A. Nagaland
- B. Assam
- C. Mizoram
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: B

13. Prime Minister's Internship Scheme 2025 Is Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Law and Justice
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: A

14. Which Country Recently Deployed A Powerful Large Phased Array Radar (LPR) Near The Myanmar Border

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Thailand
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: A

15. Which State Introduced The 'RISE' App For Digital Monitoring Of Routine Child Vaccination

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: D

16. Which State's CM Launched A Joint Credit Camp Under The Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan

- A. Bihar
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: C

17. Which State Launched 'Project Hifazat'

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: A

18. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Chairman And Managing Director Of NMDC

- A. Ramesh Kumar
- B. Amitava Mukherjee
- C. Suresh Babu
- D. Arvind Kumar

ANSWER: B

19. Which state introduced the 'RISE' app for digital monitoring of routine child vaccination

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: D

20. Which Of The Following Was Denoted By The Term "Kahapana" Or "Karshapan " During Ancient India

- A. A cloth
- B. A trader
- C. A monk
- D. A coin

ANSWER: D